

At present, I have a cynical view of our American system of elections and how news is disseminated. This process should bring pride, not only to Americans, but hope to people world-wide that there is a better way to run a country. We are the greatest nation on earth and have a responsibility in our example. My letter to you concerns the recent actions of Sinclair Broadcasting.

Sinclair Broadcasting decided to force their stations to air a pointedly anti-Kerry documentary just days before our US presidential election. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation/monopoly and how that power can be directed to sway outcome in the most important voice of the American people. It holds the danger of rewriting history to serve a goal of extreme power.

To me is it the most heinous abuse of our democratic system. It sullies the world view of our politics and that "anything goes" in winning the presidential election at any cost. The true cost is the example to young people, in that our youth see there are no limits to what people can say and do to achieve their goals. There is a need for limits of decency for campaign propaganda. They may hide under the fact that they are not representing the a specific political party as a technicality.

It is objectionable that given Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, that their actions abuse a sacred trust. When large corporations control what is presented as the truth on the airwaves, we do not get a balanced view as the spin doctors weave a web of distortion.

Sinclair's interaction concerning our presidential election shows why we need to strengthen media ownership rules. A monopoly presenting a pre scripted "canned" version of news nationwide does not serve the needs of regional communities. These actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for reading my words.